RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

1985 — MARCH ISSUE

ON MOUNTAIN ROAD

By: Edith Springer

At the February 12 meeting of the RNA, a forum was held regarding the future of the Mountain Road, which was closed last summer by the local government authorities for one year. On the forum were Jack James, Director of Public Works, Captain Orlando, Third Battalian Fire Department, Marie Murray, representing Councilman Tom Hart who was unable to attend; Captain Maglione from the North District Police Station and Armand Beard from the Heights Development Office. Mr. James described his part in the closing of the road as being ordered by the city council to close it due to negative uses of the road such as illegal dumping, abandonment of cars, delinquent behavior by negative people. He said that people in the community had complained about the road and the uses made of it and the local officials had responded by closing it. Marie Murray also added the information that the road was considered unsafe by Pat Nelan, Director of Traffic Engineering, and that if it is reopened, it can only be a one-way street. Captain Orlando reported that from the fire department's view, the closing of the road does not present a problem. He said that as long as there is no development on the road, the fire department does not need access to it in order to put out fires on Ogden Avenue or down in Hoboken. Ponte's was the only building down at the bottom of the road that had to be accessed, and there was not problem seen with that. (Note that the following weekend, Ponte's had a fire and the road was opened by the fire department).

Anne Hart spoke of the chronology of her efforts to get the road closed and her reasons. She cited dumping of trash and industrial waste, abandonment of cars, and the general negative uses of the road. Ms. Hart organized a petition in April of '84 to close the road and suggested it be made into an historic park. Her plan included lighting and benches and planting of flowers.

Mr. Frank Santoro, an Ogden Avenue resident for many years, spoke for the reopening of the road. Mr. Santoro has used the road for 60 years to get between Jersey City and Hoboken. He felt that if the road is plagued by problems, the problems should be resolved by other means than closing the road. He felt that it was not just a neighborhood issue, but an issue for many people who used the road to get access to Hoboken and the Holland Tunnel. He felt that the local officials should find ways to stop the dumping and negative use of the road rather than close it.

The forum was organized because Mayor McCann said that if neighborhood residents can come to a consensus on what they want to happen with Mountain Road, he will go along with it. Open or closed. The forum was an attempt to get the history of the closing and the opinions of the people invited. Now the RNA will continue to do research on the various aspects of the subject (sanitation, safety, traffic, etc.) and continue discussing the issue with the goal of eventually voting on whether to keep the road closed or reopen it. The one year experimental closing will expire August 9, 1985.

Do you have an opinion on the use of Mountain Road? RNA wants to know how you feel about it. Come to our meetings, which are the second Tuesday of every month in the Harbor View Health Care Center Dining Room (First Floor, 7:00 p.m.) and discuss this issue with us. If you are unable to attend, write to us or call us. WE NEED YOUR OPINION!

Picture taken at a recent meeting of the RNA at the Harborview Care Center. Bob Lewis (far right) delivers a speech. (Photo taken by Vito Brunetti)

RECIPE FOR THE SPRING . . .

GUACAMOLE DIP

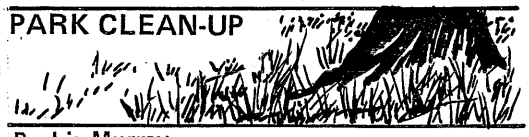
(At Cathy's request)

1 can bean dip
1 smashed avocado
1 small container sour cream
1/2 package Taco seasoning mix (A&P has one with all natural ingredients)
1 small tomato (chopped)
2 scallions (chopped)
Black olives
1 package grated cheddar cheese

In a shallow glass dish, layer the can of bean dip. Put one layer of the smashed avocado on top. Mix together sour cream and the Taco seasoning and layer on top of the avocado, followed by the chopped tomato, and scallions. Cut the olives in half and scatter on top. Finally, garnish with the cheddar cheese . Serve cold with corn chips.

ENJOY ! !

PARK CLEAN-UP



By Liz Murray

Riverview Park needs a face lift. The last Sunday in April may be a good time to welcome the spring with our combination clean-up/party day.

What is a first requirement is a handful of people who enjoy this idea and want to pull it together. Some items we need to obtain by donation are: large brooms, shovels, large trash bags, sturdy work gloves and the ever popular dumpster. People are needed to coordinate these items and services from local agencies, businesses, newspapers. VOLUNTEERS ? ? ?

Have you noticed how much nicer a street planted with trees looks? Now you can have trees planted in front of your house. Just call the Forestry Dept. and for $12.00 each they will plant a tree for you. Trees are planted early Spring and in the Fall. (547-4449)

FLEA MARKET IN THE PARK

The Awareness Committee of the RNA met on Friday, March 1st, to discuss the last details for the Flea Market which will take place at the Riverview Park on Saturday, May 4th from 9-4. (Rain date: Sunday, May 5th).

This Flea Market has been organized to collect funds for the RNA to cover for expenses incurred in the mailing, publicity, printing, etc.

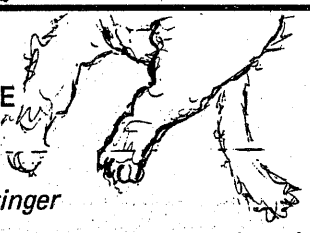
The RNA will pay an ad in the local newspapers so the event will be properly advertised, besides posting signs on the streets.

Tables will be sold at $5 and $7, depending on the size. There will be food sold on the premises and tables arranged inside the Gazebo so people attending the event can sit down and enjoy the view.

If you're interested in participating, all you have to do is contact Caren Lewis (420-1490) or Edith Springer (798-0493). If you don't want to participate, but still have all those items around the house that you would like to get ride of, you can donate them to the Association and we'll pick them up at your house. It just takes a phone call and a few minutes.

PETS CORNER

FELINE LEUKEMIA PREVENTIVE VIRUS NOW AVAILABLE



By: Edith Springer

Feline Leukemia, caused by a virus, is a life threatening disease that is most often fatal in cats. Dogs or people cannot catch it, but cats can infect each other through playing, groomig, licking and normal cat social behavior. It can also be spread through shared food dishes and litter boxes. Cats who go outside, go to kennels or groomers, or to the Vet's office are also susceptible. Thre is no cure for this disease, which is actually a collection of diseases, which include cancer of the liver, intestinal system, kidneys and other organs; kidney failure; severe anemia; cancer of white blood cells; lowered resistance to other diseases.

If your cat contracts this virus, death is pretty certain and no treatments are available. Vets often recommend that cats with this virus be put to sleep, as they suffer greatly until they die. There is still no cure, however, there is now available a feline leukemia virus vaccine which can be given to healthy cats nine weeks of age or older. A series of three vaccinations is suggested with a yearly booster. Remember, this vaccine cannot help your pet once the virus is contracted; nothing can, so have your cat(s) innoculated as a preventive measure. Ask your local vet if he has the vaccine. If not, contact The Animal Medical Center, 510 E. 62nd St., N.Y.C. 10021, (212) 838-7053.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marie "Dee" Ipsaro
Liz Murray
Edith Springer
Raquel Sweeny

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS!
WE WANT YOUR TALENT!
WE WANT YOUR PARTICIPATION!

We know there are exciting stories out there but we can't do it without your help. Our aim is to make you—and our neighborhood—look as good as we really are.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, AD, ILLUSTRATION TO THE NEWSLETTER

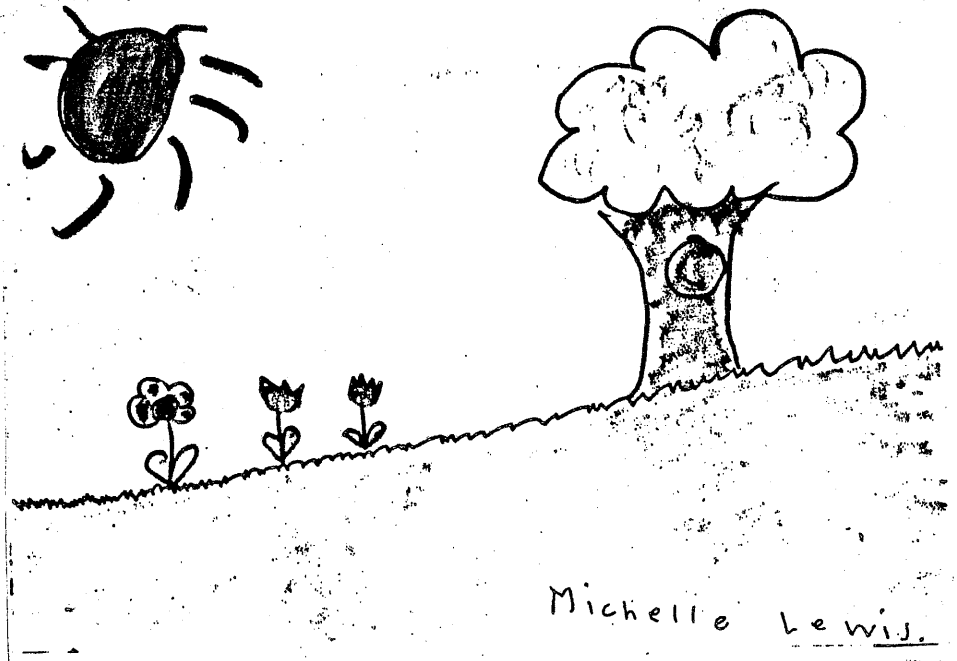
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do you feel strongly about an issue concerning our neighborhood?
Do you find yourself talking to your friends and neighbors about it?

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We will print your ideas and opinions.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH . . .



Drawing by Michelle Lewis (7 years old). Michelle is the daughter of Bob and Caren.